

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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P 070301Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003255

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LARGE HEROIN SHIPMENT FROM PARAGUAY

REF: ASUNCION 5108

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE HEROIN SHIPMENT WITH
DEA ENFORCEMENT AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. AS YOU
STATE IN REFTTEL, A MAJOR EFFORT IN DEA INVOLVING THEIR
NEW YORK REGION, EUROPEAN OFFICES AND OTHERS HAS BEEN MADE
AND IS CONTINUING. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY HAVE SPARED
NO ENERGY IN PURSUING THIS MATTER.

2. LAST WEEK, THE CONSENSUS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
ON A "BEST GUESS" BASIS WAS THAT A SHIPMENT OF HEROIN
PROBABLY DID TAKE PLACE BUT WAS BY NO MEANS AS LARGE AS
400 KILOS. AS YOU KNOW SOME OF DETAILS IN THE STORY OF
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THE ANONYMOUS INFORMANT WERE CORROBORATED. ON THE OTHER

HAND THE POSSIBILITY OF A RUSE WAS CONSIDERED REAL. DEA PLANS A MEETING JANUARY 9 OF THE KEY OFFICERS AT HEAD-QUARTERS AND FOUR REGIONS, INCLUDING YOUR SAIC, TO REVIEW THE INFORMATION GATHERED AT THIS STAGE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND TO DETERMINE THE STRATEGY IN THE FUTURE. AT THIS POINT

THERE ARE NO HARD FACTS TO BACK UP AN APPROACH TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER.

3. THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT, AS YOU KNOW, IS THAT THE INFORMANT HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH DEA AGENTS. ON THE BASIS OF THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION IT APPEARS THAT A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIAL SHIPMENTS TOTALLING A LARGE QUANTITY ARE APPARENTLY BEING ARRANGED. THE MEETING JANUARY 9 WILL DETERMINE THE TACTICS FOR SEIZING THE HEROIN, ALMOST CERTAINLY OUTSIDE PARAGUAY, AND BUILDING A SOLID CASE FOR PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER. IT SEEMS THAT A NUMBER OF RANKING OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT COULD BE IMPLICATED. YOU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED. KISSINGER

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